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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : McCarthy et al.

Appl. No. : 09/754,949

Filed : January 4, 2001

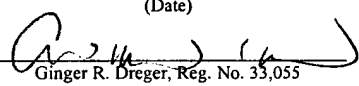
For : METHODS FOR
IDENTIFYING INHIBITORS
OF NEURONAL
DEGENERATION

) Group Art Unit 1646

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) 
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Examiner : Olga N. Chernyshev

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 2327
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action, mailed on April 22, 2002 (Paper No. 12), setting a three-months term. Please consider the following amendments and response.

In the specification:

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 3, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Another protein that may play a role in the neuronal loss in Alzheimer's disease is Par-4. Prostate apoptosis response-4 (Par-4), a protein recently implicated as a mediator of prostate cancer, melanoma, and neuronal cell death, has been found to be elevated in vulnerable regions of the Alzheimer's disease brain (Guo *et al.*, Nature Med., 4:957-962 (1998)). Par-4 expression is also elevated in cultured cells expressing FAD PS1 (Gue *et al.*, *supra*). Inhibition of Par-4 expression or function can prevent neuronal apoptotic cell death induced by β -amyloid or

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